

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Turner on 11 September 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 22:

On line 5 after "width," insert - - the second pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter, - -.

In claim 75:

On line 5 after "second pulse width," insert - - the second pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter, - -.

In claim 85:

On line 6 after "ultrashort pulse," insert - - with a pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter, - -.

In claim 91:

On line 6 after "ultrashort pulse," insert - - with a pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter, - - .

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Pang in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0073689 discloses apparatus for time correlation of ultrafast laser pulses. Sucha et al. in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097761 discloses method and apparatus for performing temporal scanning ultra-short pulse width lasers. Regarding claims 85-88, None of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, " A method of materials processing, wherein the method comprises applying bursts of laser light to a target area of material at a predetermined repetition rate, the burst of light comprising at least first and second pulses of laser light displaced or overlapped in time, wherein the first pulse has a first pulse width and the second pulse has a second pulse width, and the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width and greater than 10 ps in duration, the second pulse width being an ultrashort pulse, the second pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter...". Regarding claims 91-93, none of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, " A laser apparatus of materials processing, wherein the laser system applies bursts of laser light to a target area of a material at a predetermined repetition rate, the burst of laser light comprising at least first and second pulses of laser light displaced or overlapped in time, wherein the first pulse width has a first pulse width and the second pulse with has a second pulse width, and the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width and greater than 10 ps in duration, the second pulse width being an ultrashort pulse, with a pulse width being about 1 picosecond or shorter...".

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey S. Evans whose telephone number is (571)-272-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00AM to 3:30 PM (flexible).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571)-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Geoffrey S Evans/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742